

Food. (195⁴⁹) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No.

95

Dated 24-1-49.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Food situation - Madras Province - Report for the first fortnight of December 1948 - Review - Papers recorded.

NOTE FOR CIRCULATION.

Food situation - Madras Province - Report for the first fortnight of December 1948 - Review.

From the Board of Revenue, (Civil Supplies), Ref. No. E. 165323/48 dated 28.12.1948.

The report on the food situation for the first fortnight of December 1948 at pages 2-8 c.f. and the enclosures to it at pages 9-16 c.f. may be perused.

Rainfall:- The rainfall during the fortnight was moderate in the districts of Nellore, Tanjore, Tirunelveli and the Nilgiris, fair in South Arcot, Tiruchirapalli, Mathurai and Ramnad and light or nil in the other districts of the Province.

Cultivation:- Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Vizagapatam, Guntur, Anantapur, South Arcot, Tiruchirapalli, Ramnad and Tirunelveli, and of dry crops in East Godavari, Bellary, Nellore, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli. Water supply was inadequate in Anantapur and North Arcot and in parts of Guntur, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, Nellore, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Mathurai and Ramnad.

Standing crops:- The conditions of standing crops was generally fair in all the districts except Chingleput where it was poor. Paddy crops in parts of two taluks in South Arcot and Coimbatore districts and in three taluks of Chittoor and Tiruchirapalli districts have been affected by pests. Agricultural pests are still prevalent in all the taluks of North Arcot, but they are slowly disappearing. Attack by pests has been reported also from four taluks of Chingleput district. The groundnut crop in parts of South Arcot has also been affected by pests.

Harvest:- Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris and in parts of Krishna, Cuddapah and Salem; of cholam and cumbu in Bellary, Anantapur and in parts of Coimbatore; and of ragi in West Godavari, Anantapur, the Nilgiris and in parts of Coimbatore. The outturn of paddy and ragi was poor ~~in~~ to normal and of cholam and cumbu poor to fair.

Stock and supply position:- The stock position of food-grains in the Province on 18.12.1948 ~~as~~ as follows when compared with the stock position on 11.12.1948.

<u>Foodgrains.</u>	<u>Stocks on 11.12.48.</u>	<u>Stocks on 18.12.48.</u>
Rice.	174986 Tons.	172852 tons.
Wheat.	7993	8754
Maida.	5570	5649
Maize.	4060	3453
Other grains.	13217	16746.
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Total.	2,05,826 tons.	2,07,454 tons.
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Rice:- The decrease in the stock position of rice was due mainly to an increase in the off-take in many districts of the Province as a result of the enhancement of the relief shop quota scales and the adoption of the normal ration scales in certain areas consequent on the extension of intensive

procurement and rationing. The stock position was not satisfactory, in North Arcot and Nellore districts steps were taken to replenish the stocks in those districts.

An additional allotment of 1758 tons of rice (1967 tons of paddy equal to 1258 tons of rice plus 500 tons of rice) from Orissa has been intimated. The entire quantity of paddy is reported to be fit of parboiling. As the allotment in question has to go to Vizagapatam which requires only raw rice, the Orissa Government have been requested to arrange for the supply of raw rice or paddy fit for conversion into raw rice, if possible.

The following quantities were received during the fortnight.

1. Orissa.	532 tons.
2. Overseas.	3744 tons.
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Total.	4276 tons.
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Milletts and maize:- There were no receipts of millets, milo or maize from overseas or other areas outside the Province during the fortnight.

A quantity of 7,000 tons of milo ex. S.S. "Aklavik" is expected to be received shortly at Cochin towards the December quota.

Wheat and Wheat products:- The stock of wheat will be about 12,000 tons including the stocks in transit. 2395 tons of wheat was received ex. s.s. 'Halifax County' at Madras Port on 11.12.1948. There was no receipt of wheat products during the fortnight.

The Government of India have allotted 7,000 tons of wheat for January 1949, as detailed below:-

Madras Port.	3,000 tons.
Cochin Port.	2,000 tons.
Tuticorin port.	2,000 tons.

Gram:- The Government of India have since reimposed control over Bengalgram and its products. A basic plan for 1948-49 has also been drawn. Under this plan the Madras Province has been allotted the following quotas:-

1. From Central Provinces.	4,120 tons.
2. From East Punjab States.	20,000 tons.
3. From Bikaner.	1,690 tons.

Progress of procurement:- During the fortnight under review the intensive procurement of paddy, rice and millets was in force in the surplus and deficit districts except Chingleput, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Ramnad, Vizagapatam and Madras. 31578 tons of rice and 323 tons of millets were procured in those districts during the fortnight ending 30.11.1948 as against 42034 tons of rice and 256 tons of millets procured in the preceding fortnight. There was thus a fall of 10456 tons in rice and a slight increase of 67 tons in millets. One of the reasons for the fall in procurement was the unwillingness of the producers to surrender their surplus stocks freely in anticipation of higher prices during the year 1948-49. The prices of paddy, rice and millets have since

been fixed allowing an increase over the previous year's prices. Procurement is expected to improve in the ensuing fortnights.

Prices:- With the gradual reintroduction of intensive procurement and rationing in the unrationed areas, the price structure in these areas is undergoing a radical change. In the surplus districts where procurement is in force and rationing is to be introduced at a later stage, no retailer may now purchase the foodgrains required by him except from an authorised procuring agent (wholesaler) and no consumer may purchase such foodgrains except from a retailer. The retailer receives his requirements from the wholesaler in accordance with the quantities allotted by the Collector or his subordinate at the controlled rates. The margins admissible to the wholesaler and retailer are fixed officially; the wholesale and retail prices are thus rigidly controlled. In the deficit districts, the position is more or less similar. After the introduction of the procurement scheme, all supplies made to retailers are either from out of locally procured stocks or from out of imported stocks and the issues by the retailers to consumers conform to the scale, composition and prices applicable to relief shops from time to time. There cannot therefore be any retail shops, as such, in these districts outside the scheme of relief shops.

These arrangements are thus designed to eliminate open market transactions during the present period of transition to Province wide procurement and rationing and the prices throughout the Province are expected to settle down soon to the level of the authorised rates.

Prices in excess of the controlled rates are still being reported in some areas which have been brought under intensive procurement. It is possible that they relate to stray scales of small stocks in the hands of private merchants procured during the decontrol period. This is being investigated. The price position is continually under review.

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Also the statements showing the prices of foodgrains, firewood, salt, edible oilseeds, oils and oilcakes at pages 11-16 c.f. may be perused.

The case may be circulated to Hon'ble Minister (Food), Hon'ble Minister (Public Works) and His Excellency for perusal.

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8.1.49.

X X X (D.S.).
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M.A.K.
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H.M. (Food). X X X
10.1.49.

H.M. (P.W.). X X X
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P.S.G. H.E. has seen, thanks.

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11.1.48.

The file may now be sent to Public Works (Information and Publicity) Department for perusal and return.

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18.1.49.

Public Works (Information &
Publicity) Department.

Seen in Information & Publicity.

K.D.
19.1.

FOOD DEPARTMENT

The papers may now be recorded.

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21.1.49.

G.O. Ms. No. 95 dated 24.1.49.

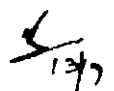
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/True copy/


Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

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